

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended to recite condensing solvent vapor based on the disclosure at, e.g., page 13, lines 16-17 in the application. Non-elected claims 18-34 have been canceled without prejudice to the filing of a divisional application directed thereto. Claims 36-39 have been added based on the disclosure at, e.g., page 1, lines 6-11 in the application.

Entry of the above amendment is respectfully requested.

Interview with Examiner

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the personal interview held with Applicant's representative on November 19, 2007. Applicant believes that the interview materially advanced the prosecution of the present case.

As a statement of the substance of the interview, Applicant's representative noted during the interview that the claims were proposed to be amended to recite condensing solvent vapor to further clarify the distinction over the condensation reaction in the Yamada references. Also, Applicant's representative argued that Lu teaches in its background section that solvent recovery systems are expensive, and thus a skilled artisan would not have been motivated to use one. In addition, Applicant's representative argued that the cited art does not teach or suggest disposing a heater along the back surface of the substrate in particular as in the present invention. Further, Applicant's representative argued that the Examples and Comparisons 1, 2 and 4 show the

importance of providing a condensing device as in the present invention to avoid unevenness in the film.

Preliminary Matter

On page 2 of the Office Action, in paragraph 2, the Examiner notes that features upon which Applicant relies, i.e., peeling said film from said substrate and then drying said film, are not recited in claims 1-17.

In response, Applicant wishes to point out that while the features noted by the Examiner are not recited in claims 1-17, they are recited in claim 35, and thus they should be considered by the Examiner when considering claim 35.

Anticipation Rejection over Lu et al

On page 3 of the Office Action, in paragraph 4, claims 1-17 and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Lu et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0105994).¹

The Examiner's Position

The Examiner indicates that Lu et al discloses a method of forming a film by casting a polymer solution on a substrate, followed by heating said substrate and a condensing step,

¹ Actually, it appears that this rejection should be under 35 U.S.C. 102(e), because the June 3, 2004 publication date of Lu et al is after the April 23, 2004 filing date of the present application.

characterized in that: the substrate is heated with the use of a heater disposed in close proximity along the back of the substrate, and the solvent from the polymer solution is condensed from the film and thereby recovered.

Applicant's Response

In response, Applicant notes initially that the Examiner has cited paragraph [0006] of Lu, perhaps for its disclosure of solvent recovery systems.

However, paragraph [0006] of Lu discloses that solvent recovery systems are expensive equipment, and thus one would not be motivated to use such systems.

Moreover, with respect to the disclosure of a heater in paragraph [0076] and the claims of Lu et al, Applicant submits that the reference does not teach where the heater is disposed (i.e., near the front surface or near the back surface).

Thus, Applicant submits that Lu et al does not teach or suggest the present requirement that the heater be disposed along the back surface of a substrate.

With regard to the location of the heater, Applicant submits that the heater is not disposed in front of the substrate because of the following reason. As clearly shown in Fig. 2, since the condensing device is disposed so as to closely confront to the front surface of the substrate and film in this invention, the heater cannot be disposed on the front side. If the heater is disposed in front of the substrate, the condensing device must be located, for example, on the back side and the device clearly cannot carry out its function, i.e., condensing the solvent vapor, at all. By heating the film from the back side and disposing the condensing device closely on the front side,

it is possible to prevent the surface unevenness of the film shown in Comparisons 1, 2 and 4 of the specification, as discussed further below.

Applicant submits that the present invention is additionally unobvious because it provides unexpectedly superior results, including due to the condensing requirement of the present invention. In this regard, Applicants note that in Comparisons 1, 2 and 4 of the present application, drying air is used instead of a condensing device, and unevenness in thickness and coating is observed in the antiglare films made in Comparisons 1, 2 and 4 as compared with the corresponding Examples.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that the present invention is not anticipated by (or obvious over) Lu et al, and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Anticipation Rejection over the Yamada References

On page 3 of the Office Action, in paragraph 5, claims 1-17 and 35 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by either Yamada et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,141,304) or Yamada (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2006/0167201).

The Examiner's Position

The Examiner's position is that each of the Yamada references discloses a method of forming a film by casting a polymer solution on a substrate, followed by heating said substrate and a condensing step, characterized in that: the substrate is heated with the use of a heater

disposed in close proximity along the back of the substrate, and the solvent from the polymer solution is condensed from the film and thereby recovered.

Applicant's Response

In response, Applicant notes initially that claim 1 has been amended to expressly recite condensing solvent vapor.

In contrast, the condensing in, e.g., column 7, lines 3-4 of U.S. Patent 7,141,304 and paragraph [0048] of US 2006/0167201 as cited by the Examiner is in connection with a reactive metal compound capable of being condensed in a condensation reaction.

That is, the "condensation reaction" in U.S. Patent 7,141,304 and US 2006/0167201 is a chemical reaction in which two small molecules or moieties combine to form one single molecule, together with the loss of a small molecule.

On the other hand, the "condensation" in the present invention means the change in matter of a substance to a denser phase, such as a gas (or vapor) to a liquid.

Thus, the condensing in Yamada is a completely different type of condensing than that in the present invention and neither teaches nor suggests condensing solvent vapor as in the present invention.

Further, Applicant notes that the condensation reaction takes place before casting in Yamada.

Moreover, with respect to the disclosure of heat treatment in, e.g., paragraph [0048] of Yamada, Applicant submits that the reference does not teach where the heater used in the heat treatment is disposed (i.e., near the front surface or near the back surface).

Thus, Applicant submits that the Yamada references do not teach or suggest the present requirement that the heater be disposed along the back surface of a substrate.

Further, Applicant again submits that the present invention is additionally unobvious because it provides unexpectedly superior results, including due to the condensing requirement of the present invention. In this regard, Applicants again note that in Comparisons 1, 2 and 4 of the present application, drying air is used instead of a condensing device, and unevenness in thickness and coating is observed in the antiglare films made in Comparisons 1, 2 and 4 as compared with the corresponding Examples.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that the present invention is not anticipated by (or obvious over) the Yamada references not teach or suggest the present invention, and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

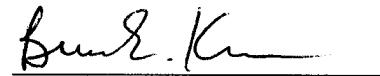
In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 10/830,096

Attorney Docket No. Q81213

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

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